NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Quarterly Summary 2006
January, February, March
Volume 23, Numbers 1-3

JANUARY-MARCH CONDITIONS

By David Walker

Western Nevada

The New Year began very wet as a strong moist winter storm brought heavy precipitation and strong winds to western Nevada. This storm along with the heavy precipitation during late December caused flooding along the Truckee River. Weak high pressure built in after this and made for mild weather until the later half of the month. Several Pacific storms passed over the area bringing rain, snow and high winds. The temperatures for the month were slightly above normal as was the precipitation. Most of the precipitation fell in the first two days of January.

We finally started to experience winter-like weather in February. High pressure dominated the month with little precipitation until a cold low-pressure system moved in just after the middle of the month. This system brought snow to the valleys and larger amounts to the mountain ranges. The temperatures and precipitation amounts were near normal for February. There were nine days of snow in Reno for a total snowfall in the city of 6.4 inches.

March saw a series of systems move over the region with rain and snow and below normal temperatures. A brief high-pressure system put daily high temperatures in the 60's around mid month. Precipitation was slightly above normal in Reno for the month by six hundredths of an inch.

Eastern Nevada

In the first week of January a low-pressure system dropped down from the north bringing substantial rain and snow. A number of storms tracked through eastern Nevada during January. Many of these precipitation systems were over-running events. This is where warmer moist air "over-runs" a dome of high pressure causing moisture to fall through the cooler air near the surface. Temperature and precipitation were slightly above normal for the region with the exception for Ely, which was at normal for the month.

February saw below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation across eastern Nevada. The exception to this general trend was Winnemucca, which was at 40% of normal precipitation for the month. A strong system at the beginning of the month brought most of the month's precipitation. High pressure settled in for most of the rest of the month. A cold low-pressure system brought significant snow to the high country after mid month.

Numerous systems moved through the area in March. A strong pacific storm moved slowly over the region in mid-March dropping a foot of snow in many parts of northern Nevada over several days. At the end of March near 70°F temperatures melted snow at low elevations raising rivers to near flood stage. Still, the monthly temperatures averaged 4° to 5°F below normal.

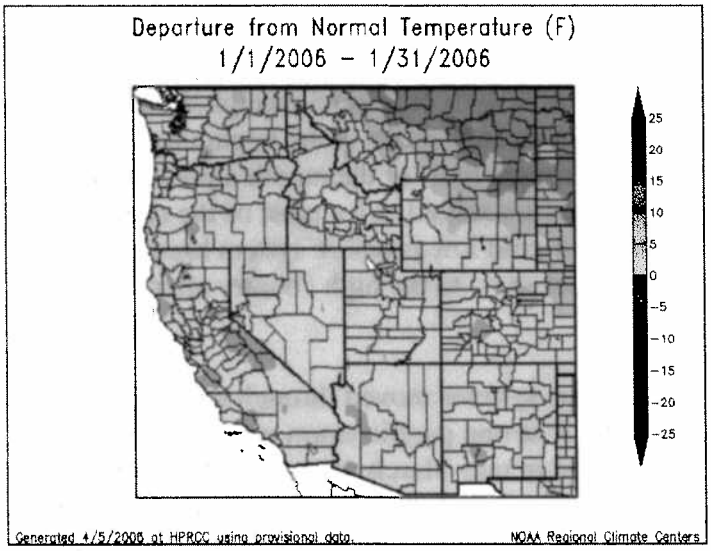
Southern Nevada

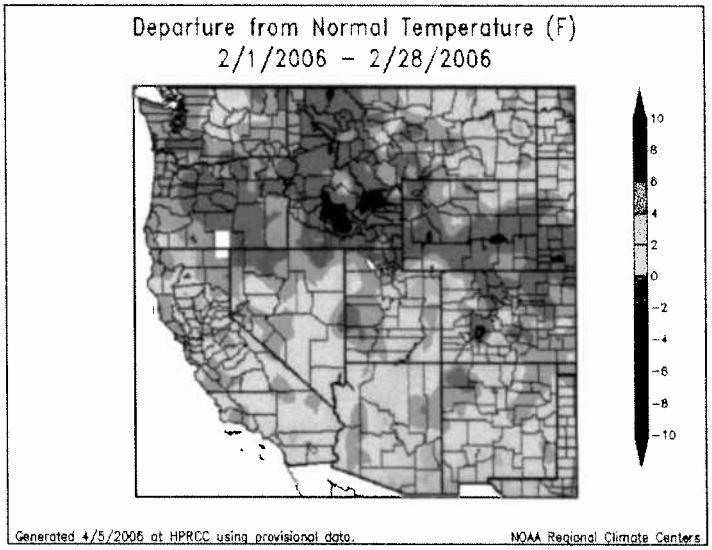
Southern Nevada also received the plume of moisture around New Years Day. Precipitation continued for the first few days of the month. During the remainder of January storms tracked to the north of the region. This resulted in above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the month.

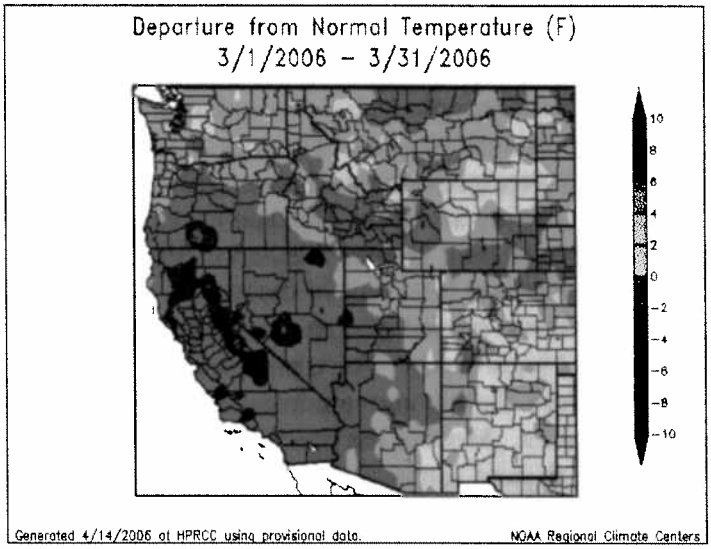
February was a continuation of the below normal precipitation from the previous month. A warm storm system on the 28th brought snow to the Spring Mountains. The 15.1 inches of snow in these mountains was still below normal and most stations in the region reported precipitation amounts of approximately 10% of normal.

March had a progressive weather pattern bringing a consistent stream of low-pressure systems over the area. Mt. Charleston received three times the amount of snowfall that had occurred during the period December-February. Increased stream flow resulted from precipitation across the region during the last few days of the month. Regardless of this, the month had below normal precipitation and below normal temperatures.

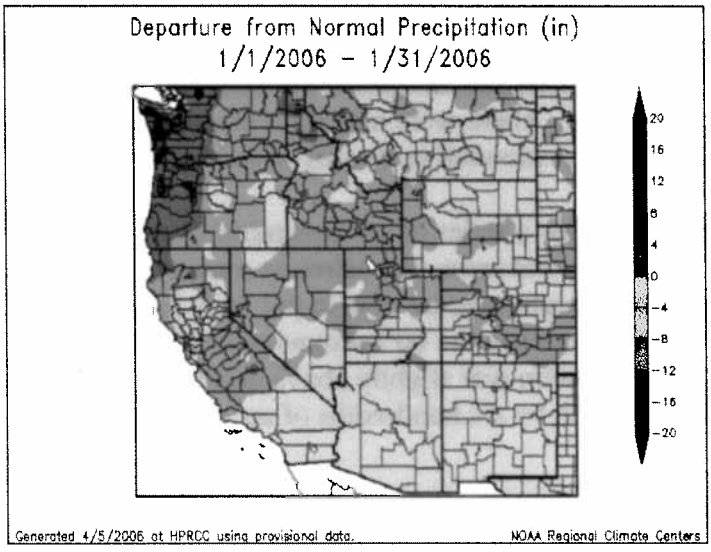
Departure from Normal Temperature Plots

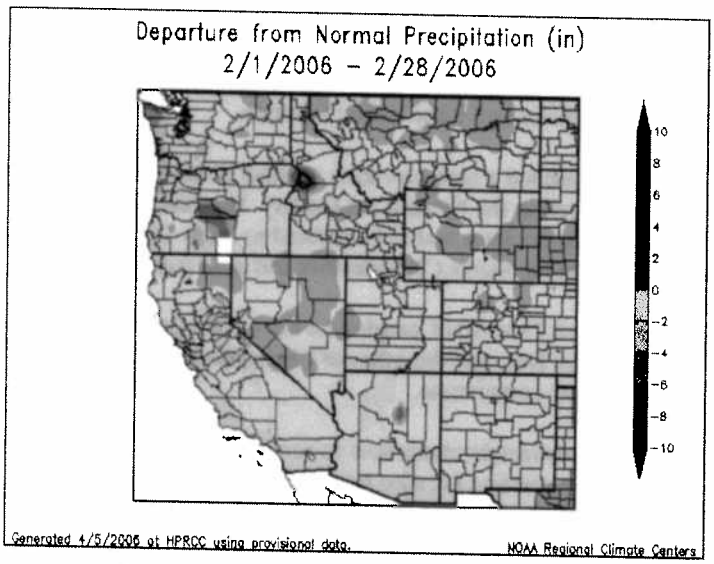


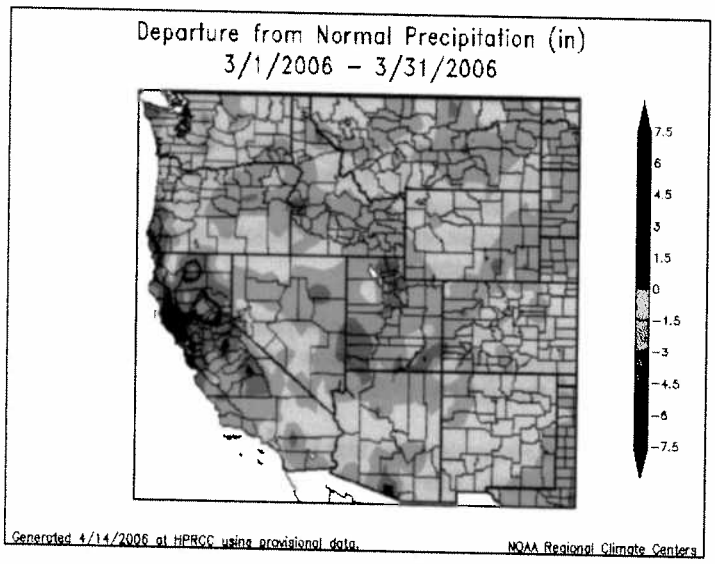




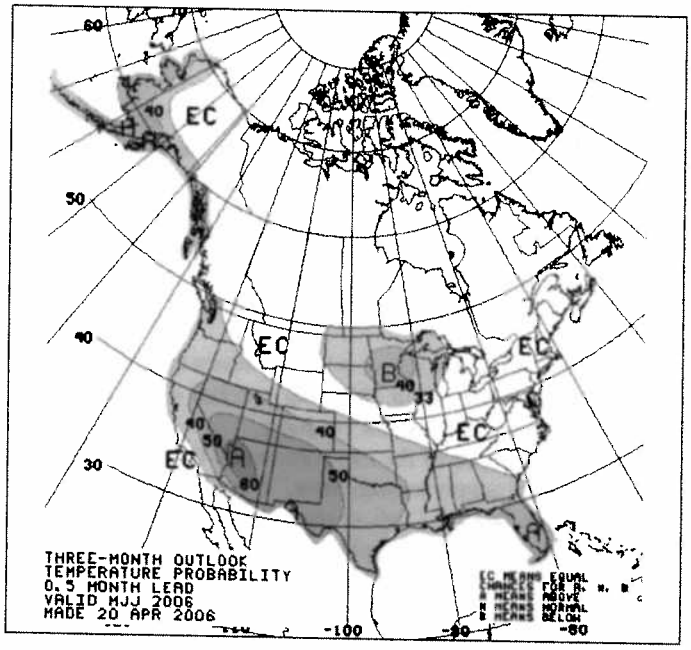
Departure from Normal Precipitation Plots

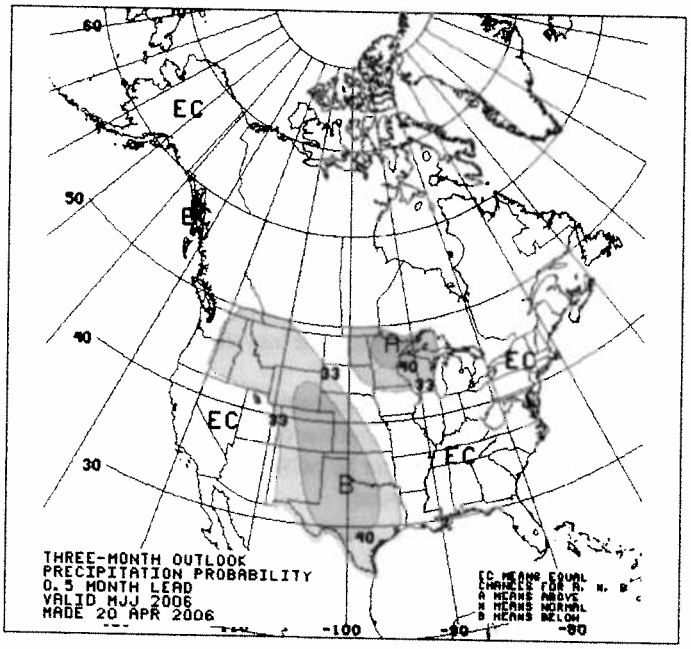






Official Seasonal Forecast
May-June-July 2006
From Climate Prediction Center





FEATURE ARTICLE: This article is reprinted from an Associated Press story that ran in newspapers nationwide after the ceremony on May 4, 2006 in Reno.

NEVADA HONORS SNOWPACK SCIENTIST

By MARTIN GRIFFITH
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. - In a career that spanned nearly 50 years at the University of Nevada, Reno, James Church was a beloved Latin language and literature professor. But it was his contribution to science outside the classroom that was honored this week by state and federal officials.

A century ago, Church developed the science of snow surveying to predict stream runoff from mountain ranges across the West, as well as floods and droughts

.

His techniques, still used by the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service and other agencies, continue to benefit millions of farmers and other water users worldwide.

Not bad for a Michigan native who was ready to return home when he arrived in Reno in 1892 and watched a man die at his feet in the street after a saloon gunfight.
"James Church is one of the most renowned figures in the history of water supply management," Deputy Agriculture Undersecretary Merlyn Carlson said at a campus ceremony Tuesday before presenting a plaque to the university recognizing Church's contributions.

"Thanks to him, we have 100 years of snow surveying data. This information is crucial to everyone who uses or drinks water," he said.

Water experts always knew there was a correlation between snowpack and runoff, but before Church they were unable to accurately predict runoff because the water content of snow varies within the snowpack, said Jeffrey Underwood, the Nevada state climatologist.

Church's technique of using a tube to pull out columns of snow along fixed, straight lines was the breakthrough that allowed water content to be factored into the equation, he said.

"He was the first to be able to quantify the water content of snow and the amount of streamflow one would expect from that," Underwood said. "After he published his runoff forecasts, the science exploded."

Known as the "father of snow surveying," Church helped Russia, China, Canada, Greenland and other counties set up similar systems, said Lawrence Clark, a deputy chief at the Conservation Service.

"It's a world-class innovation, and it's been replicated many times around the world," Clark said, adding that snow surveying is vitally important to any country that depends on snowpack as a water source.

.

Church was a Renaissanace man who had wide interests until he died in 1959 at the age of 90, said Tim Gorelangton, a Church scholar and Reno public librarian.

Church founded a high-elevation weather observatory above Reno as well as the Nevada Art Gallery. He traveled to Greece to study the ancients and to Greenland to study the snow. He was a longtime Sierra Club member and avid outdoorsman.

The Church Fine Arts Complex on the UNR campus was named after him, and the ashes of Church and his wife were placed in its cornerstone.

"He had this insight about how to accurately project runoff, which is interesting because by training he wasn't a scientist," Gorelangton said. "... It shows people can do different things and be multitalented."

Among those who attended the campus ceremony were Church's great-grandson, Ken Church of Seattle, and two great-nieces, Lois Shaver of Henderson and Elsie Shaver Perske of El Centro, Calif.

"Most of the stories about him seem bigger than life and hard to believe," said Church, 49, a Microsoft search engine developer. "He did great science, but I think there are other things more important about him -- his love of the outdoors, classics and art, and teaching."

The great-nieces said their father helped the "Snowman" -- Church's nickname -- with his snow survey work in the Sierra above Reno through the 1920s.

"We realized a long time ago that Uncle Ward, as we called him, was different," Shaver said. "He was very quiet, very calm and very low key, yet he was a warm, sweet man. We're pleased to see him get the recognition he deserves."

Gorelangton said Church was ready to return home on his first day in Reno after he witnessed the street shooting, and he initially was unimpressed with the tiny campus.

He was walking back to the train station when he happened to gaze up at 10,776-foot Mount Rose, which towers above the city to the southwest.

"He was so captivated by its beauty that he changed his mind and stayed," Gorelangton said. "The first snow survey courses on the planet were on Mount Rose because of him. It all started up there."

The north summit of the mountain was named Church Peak in his honor in 1980

.

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2006									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	56	13	14	20	45	25	35	1.73	11.20
Dayton	62	11	19	20,21	50	26	38	2.75	6.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fallon NAS	61	13	18	24	49	28	38	0.57	0.00
Fernley	61	30	17	24	49	26	37	1.56	3.50
Flanigan	66	13	18	15	48	28	38	1.21	4.00
Flying M Ranch	66	9	24	3-9	49	29	39	1.05	
Gardnerville	63	13	6	16	49	21	35	2.09	17.20
Hay Creek	53	14	13	15	42	23	32	5.14	12.30
Hualapai	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Jacks Valley	59	13	18	16	46	30	38	3.32	0.00
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	65	13	11	16	50	26	38	0.87	0.00
Minden	60	13	12	16	47	24	36	1.86	8.50
Mogul	60	13	13	12	45	28	37	1.79	0.00
Reno, N. Virginia	62	13	19	20	47	28	38	1.28	2.00
Sheridan Acres	62	13	12	15	46	26	36	3.35	15.10
Spanish Springs	58	10	17	20	46	25	35	1.46	2.00
Sulphur	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Vya-Shoestring	52	6	4	24	39	22	31	1.71	
Washoe #10	61	13	17	16	47	28	37	2.77	5.70
Wellington	61	29	9	16	49	25	37	0.90	3.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	53	5	11	16	41	23	32	3.88	35.10
Reese River	57	12	-8	15	44	20	32	0.53	0.00
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	52	6	2	20	39	17	28	1.21	0.00
Gabbs	63	31	13	16	48	26	37	0.62	2.50
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	58	30	5	16	40	14	27	1.31	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	61	7	5	20	46	16	31	0.37	2.50
Schurz (precip. only)								0.18	0.00
Tonopah	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	69	7	32	21	60	40	50	0.03	0.00
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)									
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville, CA	58	14	22	16	45	31	38	3.04	9.50
Tahoe Valley	61	7	11	19	46	24	35	0.59	5.50
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist., CA	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2006									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	59	26	2	20	49	20	34	2.67	6.30
Dayton	65	25	11	17	53	25	39	0.91	4.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fallon NAS	66	27	7	16	52	25	39	0.23	4.00
Fernley	66	25	13	20	55	24	39	0.83	6.80
Flanigan	64	26	13	20	52	25	38	1.05	0.50
Flying M Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Gardnerville	65	25	4	16	52	20	36	2.36	5.00
Hay Creek	57	10	7	15	44	21	33	1.36	5.00
Hualapai	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Jacks Valley	60	25	13	17	50	28	39	2.49	0.00
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	65	14	7	16	54	23	39	2.10	0.00
Minden	66	25	10	16	53	23	38	1.43	1.00
Mogul	66	25	10	16	53	23	38	1.43	1.00
Reno, N. Virginia	64	25	13	16	53	26	39	1.23	5.70
Sheridan Acres	63	25	11	16	51	25	38	3.47	9.90
Spanish Springs	61	12	9	16	51	22	36	1.02	0.00
Sulphur	61	10	9	15	49	27	38	0.73	0.00
Vya-Shoestring	56	8	4	17	42	21	31	1.88	
Washoe #10	62	26	9	16	50	26	38	2.45	10.40
Wellington	62	1	3	18	52	20	36	0.83	3.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	61	8	-3	19	42	16	29	1.64	11.40
Reese River	64	27	-7	16	50	12	31	0.25	0.00
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Gabbs	64	28	8	16	52	24	38	0.23	2.30
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	66	1	8	16	58	23	41	0.20	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	62	10	-1	21	52	15	33	0.33	5.80
Schurz (precip. only)								0.25	0.00
Tonopah	61	8	5	16	51	21	36	0.23	0.00
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	78	9	36	20	69	46	58	0.39	0.00
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	75	9,27	33	20	65	43	54	0.05	0.00
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.10	0.00
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville	60	10	25	5	m	m	m	4.14	10.00
Tahoe Valley	52	26	1	16	41	17	29	4.06	14.00
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist.	61	13	-7	20	47	12	29	3.92	0.00

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
nr - Not Recorded

STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2006									
	Extreme High	Day	Extreme Low	Day	Average High	Average Low	Average Monthly Temp	Precip	Snowfall
Climate Division 1 (NW)									
Cold Springs	62	23	13	13	45	24	34	2.16	20.50
Dayton	67	24,28	18	11	49	26	38	1.27	10.00
Desert Valley (precip. only)	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Fallon NAS	70	23	19	12	53	29	41	1.45	6.50
Fernley	69	27	19	20	53	28	41	1.26	9.00
Flanigan	66	23	16	12	49	29	39	0.94	4.50
Flying M Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Gardnerville	68	23	13	12	49	25	37	0.76	5.00
Hay Creek	62	28	12	12	45	22	33	1.03	12.00
Hualapai	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Jacks Valley	65	23	17	12	49	28	39	2.24	
Lahontan Nat'l Fish Hatchery	68	23	18	12	52	28	40	0.86	0.00
Minden	64	23	16	12	49	26	37	1.21	3.90
Mogul	67	23	19	11	50	27	38	1.85	
Reno, N. Virginia	66	23	20	12	51	28	40	0.89	6.50
Sheridan Acres	68	23	17	4	51	28	39	2.53	12.60
Spanish Springs	64	23	15	13	47	26	36	1.31	2.70
Sulphur	56	24	18	10	48	26	37	1.27	2.00
Vya-Shoestring	54	23	12	11	41	22	32	1.26	
Washoe #10	65	23	16	10	51	27	39	1.79	13.80
Wellington	68	23	13	12	51	25	38	0.53	0.00
Wilson Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 2 (NE)									
Jarbidge	56	27	9	10	43	23	33	3.25	31.20
Reese River	62	27	-3	15	45	17	31	1.23	
Ruby Valley	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Climate Division 3 (Central)									
Belmont	52	24	2	4	39	18	28	2.33	0.00
Gabbs	76	27	13	12	53	29	41	1.61	8.70
Goldpoint	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Manhattan	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Marietta	70	24	6	12	54	25	40	0.26	0.00
Pioche - Lister Ranch	62	26	7	4	46	20	33	1.77	18.20
Schurz (precip. only)								0.78	0.00
Tonopah	63	25	10	4	48	23	36	1.94	15.30
Climate Division 4 (S)									
Boulder Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Las Vegas (NWS Station)	76	25	37	11	64	46	55	0.19	0.00
Lee Canyon	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Overton Beach	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Sandy Valley (precip. only)								0.57	0.00
California Stations									
Bare Ranch	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m	m
Janesville	62	28	28	26				5.67	25.00
Tahoe Valley	52	23	2	12	37	18	28	5.33	75.00
Truckee/Tahoe AP Dist.	55	23	0	12	39	16	28	4.75	34.00

* - Incomplete data m - Missing data
nr - Not Recorded

Nevada State Climate Office
University of Nevada, Reno
116 Mackay Science Hall, ms-154
Reno, Nevada 89557-0118

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Reno, Nevada
Permit No. 26